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carboxyl group, an alkyl, aryl or alkaryl group or a hydroxy - or carboxy substituted - alkyl, aryl or alkaryl group provided that R and R' together have a total of less than 23 carbon atoms and n is greater than 1; X is hydrogen or a cation or an alkyl group; one of R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ is a phosphonate or a sulphonate group and the remainder of R², R³, R⁴, R⁵ are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkaryl, alkoxy, hydroxy, hydroxy or carboxy substituted alkyl, phosphonate or sulphonate groups and a is from 1 to 5; R⁶, R⁷, R⁸, R⁹ are each independently selected from hydrogen, alkyl, aryl, alkaryl, hydroxy, alkoxy, hydroxy or carboxy substituted alkyl or carboxy groups and b is from 5 to 200. The polymer has uses in the fields of water treatment and corrosion inhibition.